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The Structure of Revelation

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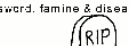


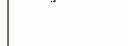
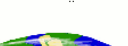




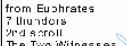
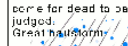
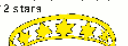




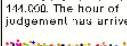
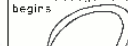

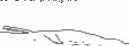


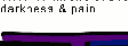
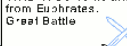



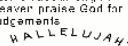
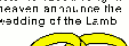

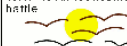
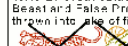
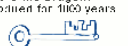
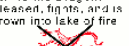


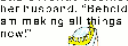
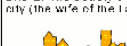

The clearest evidence of structure, which is universally recognized is in the sequences of seven. Four of these are explicit:

- Seven letters to churches (2:1-3:22)
- Seven seals (6:1-8:1)
- Seven trumpets (8:2-11:19)
- Seven plagues/bowls (15:1-16:21)

In addition it is often recognized that seven visions of warfare can be identified in 12:1-14:20. (There are some minor variations of where some of the divisions are placed.)

Many have gone on to divide the last six chapters into two more sequences of seven, making a total of seven sevens. This can be visualized pictorially in a chart (pdf) .

Revelation: Seven Sequences of Seven

Prologue: Vision of Jesus Christ among the candlesticks [1]						
1. Seven Letters to the Churches [2 & 3]						
2:1-7 Ephesus	2:8-11 Smyrna	2:12-17 Pergamum	2:18-20 Thyatira	3:1-6 Sardis	3:7-13 Philadelphia	3:14-22 Laodicea
						
Introduction: The Lamb is worthy to open the seals [4 & 5]						
2. Seven Seals [6-8:1]						
6:1-2 White horse: conqueror	6:3-4 Red horse: war	6:5-6 Black horse: famine & oppression	6:7-8 Pale horse: death by sword, famine & disease	6:9-11 Prayers of the Martyrs	6:12-7:17 Day of Wrath has come, 144,000 sealed	8:1 long pause
						
3. Seven Trumpets [8:2-11] Prologue [8:2-6] Offering up of the prayers of the faithful						
8:7 Earth damaged	8:8-9 Sea damaged	8:10-11 Rivers damaged	8:12 Sun damaged	8:13-9:12 Abyss unlocked: darkness & pain	13:1-14:13 Demonic army from Euphrates 7 billion 2nd scroll The Two Witnesses Great Battle	14:15-19 The time has come for dead to be judged. Great hailstorm
						
4. Seven Visions of Warfare [12-14]						
The Second Scroll						
12:1-2 Woman with crown of 12 stars	12:3-6 Huge Red Dragon	12:7-18 War in heaven: Dragon thrown down to earth	13:1-10 Beast from the sea	13:11-18 Beast from the land (False Prophet)	14:1-13 The Lamb with the 144,000. The hour of judgement has arrived	14:14-20 Judgement begins
						
5. Seven Final Plagues [15-16] Prologue [15:1-16:1] Offering up of the worship of the faithful						
16:2 Earth plague	16:3 Sea plague	16:4-7 River plague	16:8-9 Sun plague	16:10-11 Throne of beast: darkness & pain	16:12-16 Demonic army from Euphrates. Great Battle	16:17-21 Start of judgement. Great hailstorm
						
6. Seven Visions of Victory [17-19]						
17 The Great Prostitute (Babylon)	18 The Fall of Babylon	19:1-5 Vast throng in heaven praise God for judgements. Hallelujah!	19:6-10 Vast throng in heaven announce the wedding of the Lamb	19:11-16 Christ appears with army dressed in white	19:17-18 Announcement of battle	19:19-21 Great battle: Beast and False Prophet thrown into lake of fire
						
7. Seven Visions of the End of the Age and the New Creation [20-22:5]						
20:1-6 The Dragon: subdued for 1000 years	20:7-10 The Dragon: released, fights, and is thrown into lake of fire	20:11-15 Great white throne. the dead are judged	21:1 A new heaven and a new earth	21:2-8 A bride adorned for her husband. "Behold, I am making all things new"	21:9-27 The beauty of the city (the wife of the Lamb)	22:1-5 The River of Life
						
Epilogue [22:6-21] I am coming soon!						
(Andrew Fountain © 2019-07-30)						

- All sequences end with some kind of judgement except \$7, which takes us even further into the future.

Relative time markers

- \$3 and \$5 are extremely similar in every vision
- \$2.6 and \$4.6 both reference 144,000

It has already been pointed out that \$2.1 and \$4.1 start at the same time, so it would make sense that the time period covered in \$2-\$3 is repeated in \$4-\$5.

- The false trinity and false bride: Dragon/sea-beast/prophet/Babylon span the last four sequences, being introduced in order, and then destroyed in the exact reverse order.

This suggests that the last four sequences belong together and there are some chronological dependencies between them. The detailed dependencies will be discussed later.

- \$4 Dragon introduced
 - \$4 Beast (false Christ) & False prophet introduced
 - \$6 Great Prostitute, Babylon (false bride) introduced
 - \$6 Great Prostitute destroyed
 - \$6 Beast & False prophet destroyed
- \$7 Dragon destroyed

Time reference defining relationship between \$2 (seals) and \$3 (trumpets)

Since both sequences end with a judgement scene, the temptation is to make them run in parallel

seal 1	seal 2	seal 3	seal 4	seal 5	seal 6	seal 7
trump 1	trump 2	trump 3	trump 4	trump 5	trump 6	trump 7

There is a key temporal link between \$2 and \$3: In \$2.6 (specifically 7:1-3), the angels of \$3 are told not to blow their trumpets until \$2.6 is complete (the 144,00 are sealed). The angels who hurt the earth, sea etc (trumpets) cannot start until the 144,000 have been marked to keep them safe.

This places the whole sequence of trumpets as an expansion of the 6th and 7th seals

seal 1	seal 2	seal 3	seal 4	seal 5	seal 6	seal 7
					trumps 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	

Proposal

(to be fleshed out shortly)

- Book falls into 2 halves, plus a prologue and epilogue
 - 1-5 - Prologue (letters to churches)
 - 6-11 - First series of visions, sequences 2 & 3
 - 12-22:5 - Second series of visions, sequences 4, 5, 6 & 7
 - 22:6-21 - Epilogue: I am coming soon!
- **Evidence:**
 - parallels between certain sequences:
 - \$2.6 and \$4.6 both reference 144,000
 - 3rd and 5th almost identical
 - Opening and closing of Dragon sequence
 - Change of character between first and second half
 - the imagery had almost no overlap (Dragon/beast etc)
 - John is given a second scroll just before the end of the first
 - Makes for a straightforward integration with Jesus & Paul (matching sequences 2 & 4)

(Andrew Fountain 2016-06-09)

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